



## A Cipher in the Sand

*Sandra Bolton*

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Even before the plane touches down in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Sarah Nelson questions her motives for being there. By the time this feminist adventure novel ends, Sarah's life is forever altered as the naive and idealistic woman encounters more intrigue, danger, and mystery than she ever bargained for. The year is 1985, and Ronald Reagan is president. Following a recent divorce from her husband of 28 years, Sarah decides to join the Peace Corps. She leaves behind her Minnesota farm, a teaching career, and two grown children to begin a new life on the northern coast of Honduras, a poverty-stricken, tropical paradise, caught between the U.S. funded Contras and the Nicaraguan Sandinistas. The Garifunas, a unique Afro-Amerindian culture, are her nearest neighbors. Her closest ally in times of trouble is the ancient female tribal leader and spiritualist, Xiomara, who draws her into a mysterious world of the supernatural. A Cipher in the Sand offers the readers not only a glimpse into a fascinating third-world culture during a turbulent time in history, but also tells the story of Sarah, who, given a second chance at life and love, discovers a greater understanding of herself and the complex world in which she lives.

## A Cipher in the Sand Details

Date : Published March 22nd 2012 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

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Author : Sandra Bolton

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## From Reader Review A Cipher in the Sand for online ebook

### Leftychick says

**Amazing, Sandra Bolton is an excellent writer, fasten your seatbelts, it's a bumpy ride!**

I have spent several summer's in Honduras and Ms. Bolton nails the culture. This is a fabulous page Turner and will definitely keep you up past your bedtime. Ms. Bolton did amazing research into the Contra affair, and this spy thriller is ripped from the headlines, political intrigue, smuggling and drugs.

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### Betty says

An interesting and tense foray into a beautiful yet dangerous land in 1985. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. A middle aged woman, divorced, her children grown and gone, feels the need for change and purpose in her life. She joins the Peace Corp, much against the wishes of her children. She is assigned as a teacher and to improve education in a somewhat remote area of Honduras. Her first taste of excitement as the man she has been talking with in the airport, suddenly makes a run for it when the airport security come after him. Her next shock at the end of the flight when she learns they will be landing in the dark, the airport lit by headlights of cars lined up along the runway and men with flashlights guiding the plane to the terminal; the plane swoops down over the mountains onto a very short runway.

Once in Honduras, she quickly learns that she has no idea what she is in for. She finds the land and the people in the villages beautiful and relaxing, but darkness is on the horizon for her. After training, her assignment takes her to the coast and a small village. Fortunately, many people in this particular village speak English, but she has also learned Spanish so she is able to converse quite well with the villagers. To her consternation, a misfit in the newly trained Peace Corp recruits, a young girl, suddenly becomes her room-mate to work in the clinic as a nurse. These totally different personalities must find some common ground.

It does not take long for them to become targets of the Honduran military when they try to help the local villagers. In no time at all, they will be running for their lives. This book is well-written, in-depth both in character and plot. Tension runs high, murder, mystery, yet sweet and caring, this is a powerful thriller with a heart. Fast-paced, terror-ridden, a veritable clash of countries, military, populace, hope and fear all at the same time. I thought this was an excellent read, packed with intrigue. Definitely a very good first novel. I congratulate **Sandra Bolton** on writing a novel that compels the reader to keep reading this new and exciting book.

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### Carol Ann says

Not Just Another Day in Paradise, July 27, 2014

By Carol Ann Kauffman

This review is from: A Cipher in the Sand (Kindle Edition)

A Cipher in the Sand by Sandra Bolton tells the tale of an American woman in the Peace Corp sent to Honduras as a teacher. She quickly becomes embroiled in the lives of the village people and faces the corrupt local police, men with violent and often deadly methods. The characters are so believably drawn that one forgets this is not a true life story. The beauty of the country and its people play an important part in the story, as we watch our teacher's growth through pain and heartache. A quick, interesting read with great characters and a beautiful setting, but not just another day in paradise. I highly recommend it.

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### **Valeria Jane says**

A mature woman leaves her comfortable life to join the Peace Corps, and finds herself in Honduras. The Peace Corps is perhaps not quite what the reader expects, neither is Honduras. It is interesting to read about both, and feel for the heroine during this tough time. Good read.

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### **James W Raymond says**

#### **Great read!!!**

Enjoyable from beginning to end, this story holds the reader's interest while weaving a tale through the eyes of two Peace Corps volunteers of political and social injustices, and abuses of power against the poor and uneducated citizens of corrupt third world countries.

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